Fertilizer project in Tripura

1065. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tripura has been continuously pursuing with the Central Government with a proposal for setting up a gas-based fertilizer project in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a Mumbai-based company, namely, North-East Petrochemicals Private Limited has shown keen interest in the matter;

(c) if so, the role of the Central Government in providing support to this important project in Tripura; and

(d) by when the proposal will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) As per the industrial policy resolution dated 24th July, 1991, no licence is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance. However, Public Sector Undertakings/Cooperative Societies under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have to obtain approval of the Government before undertaking such capital expenditure beyond their delegated powers. Further, setting up of new, expansion and de-bottlenecking projects of urea requires prior approval of the Department of Fertilizers as per the pricing policy for investment made in new, expansion and de-bottlenecking projects of urea notified in January 2004. No proposal pertaining to the State of Tripura have been submitted to the Government for approval.

Decontrolling drug sector

1066. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol the drug-sector; and

(b) if so, the manner in which Government propose to monitor the drug prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

Per capita foodgrain consumption

1067. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the average quantity of per capita foodgrain consumption in the year 2001-2002, 2002-03 and 2003-04; and

(b) the average consumption of food in terms of calorie-potential for one adult person in the country as compared to the average in the world scale of consumption during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per available information, the availability of foodgrains per capita per day in the country for the years 2000, 2001, 2002 is 454.4, 416.2 and 491.2* grams respectively. (*The figure for 2002 is provisional).

(b) As per estimate of National Sample Survey Organisation, the average consumption of food in terms of Calories per adult person per day is 2149 for rural and 2156 for urban, while the average world consumption as per Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s estmate is 2800 K Cal.

Stock and distribution of foodgrains

†1068. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains available togetherwith the quantum thereof which gets rotten every year in the country; and

(b) the quantum of foodgrains made available every year to the persons living below poverty line?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.